

Wanderers' Rally Came Too Late

by "NOVA"

Walthamstow Avenue 3; Wycombe Wanderers 1

A TREMENDOUS effort in the last 20 minutes was not enough for Wycombe Wanderers to snatch the Isthmian League points from Walthamstow Avenue at Walthamstow on Saturday.

During those last minutes Wycombe had enough chances to wipe out the two-goal deficit and go ahead—but had they done so it would have been injustice to the home side, who were well in control for most of the first half.

Although this was Wycombe's third successive League defeat they showed much more fire than against Barking. The defence, after a gruelling first half, clamped down in the second.

Wing halves Dave Thomas and Charlie Gale instigated attack after attack but shots that should have scored went sailing over the bar.

Chief offender was centre-forward Jimmy Hay, a last-minute replacement for Peter James, who was still recovering from flu. Three times right winger Len Worley pulled the ball back to provide him with ideal passes—but three times the ball went flashing over the bar.

The Wanderers' attack displayed a fighting spirit that was missing the week before. Worley constantly beat his opposing full back. Ray Howson did well on his re-appearance in the first team, chasing anything in sight and adding extra bite to the line.

SLOW START

Once again, however, the Wanderers' slow start proved a disadvantage all through. For after two minutes a neat move between Groves and Minall gave Jim Lewis an easy goal.

It was all Walthamstow in the first quarter of an hour. Wingers Groves and Harvey constantly menaced Lewis and Beck. Gale,

playing at centre-half, looked shaky at first but the defence knitted together better when he switched with Ivor Ashby.

When Wycombe recovered slightly their first dangerous move resulted in Hay testing goalkeeper McGuire, who again saved well a few minutes later from Tony Horseman.

Wycombe had an escape when Harvey floated in a high centre which Ken Brown misjudged. The ball went over his hands but Alistair Lewis managed to head off the line.

Walthamstow still looked more dangerous in attack and after 25 minutes they increased their lead. Lewis centred for Groves to head on to Alan Minall, who in turn neatly headed it past the outstretched hand of Brown.

BECK SHINES

Twenty minutes after half-time Walthamstow went further ahead, through a first-time shot from Edwards;

Then came the Wanderers' gallant rally. But they were able to score only once. Worley slid a free-kick to Beck, who ran about five yards before shooting into the corner of the net from outside the penalty area.

Beck had an outstanding game, subduing Harvey after the first 15 minutes and often forging upfield to try a shot.

After the opening period Lewis had a fairly quiet afternoon. Ashby did well when he was moved to centre-half, and Thomas and Gale completed a satisfactory back division.

Among the forwards Horseman was again switched from the wing, where George Blair took his place, but neither was outstanding. Hay had a harrowing time against veteran Stan Prince, but he was always willing to go for goal.